



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

10-600-21

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

10 MAR 1958

Mr. Stoddard M. Stevens
Sullivan and Cromwell
48 Wall Street
New York 5, New York

Dear Stoddard:

Thank you for your letter of 25 February.

In response to your specific inquiry, I can tell you that our information indicates that the Tolstoy Foundation, Inc., has been and continues to be quite effective in the welfare and relief fields in which it operates. It is my personal opinion that this activity is deserving of your continued support, at least for another year.

With warm personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Signed
Allen W. Dulles

STATINTL

7 March 58

Date

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
VIA: Deputy Director (Plans)
SUBJECT: Inquiry of Mr. Stoddard M. Stevens
regarding the Tolstoy Foundation
REFERENCE: ER 10 - 1600

This memorandum suggests action on the part of the DCI.
Such requested action is contained in paragraph 2.

STATINTL

1. With regard to the Tolstoy Foundation, both
[redacted] have recently been
in touch with me about the financial difficulties which this
organization has been facing. They both think it has been
doing a good, useful job in the welfare field and SR Division
concurs.

2. I recommend, therefore, that you send the attached
letter in response to Mr. Stoddard M. Stevens' inquiry.

STATINTL

[redacted]
Chief
International Organizations Division

Attachment: Proposed letter for DCI's signature

cc: DDCI

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SULLIVAN & CROMWELL

10-1600

48 Wall Street, New York 5,
February 25, 1958.

Hon. Allen W. Dulles,
P.O. Box 1513, Main Post Office,
Washington 13, D. C.

Dear Allen:

You may or may not be familiar with the Avalon Foundation, which is a New York membership corporation created and supported principally by Ailsa Mellon Bruce. The Foundation has assets of some \$60,000,000 and for many years its board consisted of Mrs. Bruce, Paul Mellon and Lauder Greenway. In November of last year, Dr. Thomas Parran and I became trustees, and last month Brewster Jennings also joined the board, so that there are now six trustees.

At a meeting of the board of trustees yesterday, there was an application from the so-called Tolstoy Foundation, Inc., which is under the leadership of Countess Alexandra Tolstoy, and which for some years participated with the State Department in helping to process and transport Russian refugees out of sympathy with the present Russian government and its philosophy. The Tolstoy Foundation has apparently operated branch offices in foreign countries near the Russian border, and it operates a farm to house and provide work and recreation for Russian refugees, which is known as the Reed Farm, in Westchester County.

Avalon has been contributing annually to this organization since 1944 and its contributions have aggregated in excess of \$500,000. We get the impression that this organization at the present time is not a particularly effective one and that Countess Tolstoy's precarious health renders the future of the organization problematical, to say the least.

Last year Avalon contributed \$40,000 to the Tolstoy Foundation, \$20,000 of which was an outright contribution and the remaining \$20,000 was to be matched by other contributions on a dollar-for-dollar basis. This matching was accomplished so that the total contribution by Avalon in 1957 was \$40,000.

The Avalon Foundation's problem is what it should do in the future and whether it should completely terminate its support.

Hon. Allen W. Dulles

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It occurred to me that you might have some knowledge of this organization and might have come in contact with it in some way in the 1940's before you went to Washington.

If you do have any information which you can properly communicate to me, I should very much like to have it.

With best regards, I am,

Faithfully yours,
Dulles

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